

### One held with 839 phensidyl bottles

UNB, Kusthia

Members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) held a young man with 839 bottles of phensidyl at Ishwardi Mirtamari Chand Ali crossing on Kushtia-Pabna highway yesterday.

Acting on a tip-off, the elite force intercepted a private car, seized the drugs and caught Monam, 25, at about 8:45am.

## Govt to probe 'neglect'

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committee led by the secretary to the Ministry of Housing and Public Works.

Joint secretaries to the Ministry of Water Resources and Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation Division (IMED) were made members of the committee, sources in the Cabinet Division said adding that the enquiry committee was asked to submit its report within two weeks to the Cabinet Division.

The committee was also asked to enquire whether there was any need to repair embankments to protect districts from floods and whether proper timely steps were taken to repair and construct flood-protection embankments to save districts like Sirajganj, Feni and Kurigram. It was also asked to suggest remedial measures to reduce flood damages.

It would investigate whether there was lack of initiatives of the local administration to inform the government policymakers about the floods, sources said.

"The government could not take adequate preparation to tackle the flood as it was not

informed earlier by the field-level administration," a senior official in the Cabinet Division said.

According to official statistics, the flood destroyed 87km of embankments completely, partially damaged 727km of embankments, destroyed 72 bridges and culverts and damaged 1,536 others.

The toll of the flood-related deaths, including drowning, snakebites and deaths related to water-borne diseases, rose to 516 with 35 deaths reported in 24 hours till yesterday morning.

According to statistics provided by the food and disaster management ministry, a total of 251 upazilas in 39 districts were flood-hit affecting over 1.05 crore people till 9:30am yesterday.

The flood destroyed at least 60,848 houses and damaged 8,69,539 houses partially. It destroyed crops on 6,89,300 acres of land and damaged crops on 7,31,727 acres, destroyed 2,668km of roads and damaged 22,591km of roads, destroyed 510 educational institutions and damaged 6,672 others.

